

# Press Comments On Hoke Schools

**Editor's Note -** Following Hoke School Superintendent Donald Abernethy's appearance before the United States Senate "Select Committee on Equal Educational Opportunity" on Wednesday of last week at least two of the State's major newspapers have used the occasion for editorial comment. The

Raleigh News and Observer's editorial, "Hoke County's Achievement," appeared in the issue of Saturday, June 20, and The Fayetteville Observer's "Little Hoke's Example in School Integration" appeared in the issue of Sunday, June 21. Both are reprinted below.

## 'Little' Hoke's Example In School Integration

This region and the whole state for that matter can take a measure of pride in the appearance of Hoke County School Superintendent Donald D. Abernethy before the Senate's Select Committee on Equal Educational Opportunity in Washington Wednesday.

Superintendent Abernethy described how Hoke County achieved complete integration of its school system in a few brief years with a minimum of difficulty and an absence of racial disturbances. And he testified that Hoke's schools "are better than ever" for it.

Abernethy's appearance before the Senate group provides eloquent testimony to what also can be accomplished elsewhere if reason and justice, not emotion and prejudice, are made to prevail in the handling of school integration matters.

A great measure of the credit for the success of the program should go to members of the county school board "who, once the decision was made, never reneged, even privately, on their commitment," Abernethy said. This forthright and honest leadership, he added, engendered a determination on the part of principals, teachers, staff and students to make the integration program work and helped create a climate of cooperation in the community.

"I think it is significant that the board stated in a public hearing that the decision to integrate the schools was made not because of pressure from Washington, but because the board felt it was the right thing for our schools," the Hoke superintendent said. Certainly

that is a refreshingly candid and honest position to take at a time when too many school officials still do have to be prodded into doing what is right by making racial equality a reality in the schools.

In the beginning, when the children of black, white and Indian parents were brought together in the classroom, it was found, not surprisingly, that non-white children from inferior schools and disadvantaged homes had not reached levels of academic achievement comparable with their white classmates. But instead of throwing up their hands, Hoke school leaders tackled this problem.

With the aid of a federal grant and the cooperation of Duke University, a study was made of students by race to determine their progress in language, reading and math. It showed, Abernethy testified, that black students performed better after integration and that the achievement levels of white and Indian pupils did not suffer. "The fact that the black students tended to gain in achievement causes the board to believe that within a few years the average level of achievement of the races will be nearly the same," he said.

What Hoke County has proved once again is that where there's a will, there's a way. Racially integrated public schools can indeed overcome such problems as different achievement levels by pupils if they make the effort they should and get the public support they deserve. In this matter, "little" Hoke County emerges as pretty big after all because of the example it set.

## Hoke County's Achievement

Hoke County's achievement in school desegregation deserves all the national attention it got Wednesday at a hearing before a special Senate committee. It is a genuine success story. More communities ought to be duplicating it.

There are many school districts in North Carolina and elsewhere throughout the nation with far fewer desegregation problems than Hoke County voluntarily confronted. Hoke had to convert not two, but three separate school systems - white, Negro and Indian - into a unitary system. This mixture of races meant a mixture of old animosities to overcome in the desegregation effort. Obviously, they were overcome successfully. The payoffs to Hoke County are varied and proven, and include the fact that white and Indian students are learning as much in integrated schools as they had in desegregated ones, while many blacks are learning more.

When he related Hoke's story to the Senate committee, School Superintendent Donald Abernethy made clear what it takes to produce this sort of success: local leadership. The county school board members undertook desegregation because they "felt it was the right thing to do," not because

a fund cutoff was threatened or a court suit was filed. Once the decision to desegregate was made, they stuck by it, apparently with a minimum of community criticism. In fact, these people who oversaw complete integration of Hoke County schools in less than two years' time were all renominated to the school board in the recent primary election.

Undoubtedly, Hoke's compliance with desegregation laws was much less troublesome as a product of local initiative than it would have been as the result of federal prodding. The Hoke district could have done what many others are doing - as little as possible, as late as possible, blaming the U.S. government every reluctant step of the way. But Hoke school officials acted on their own. They won community confidence for doing so, and they already can point with pride to the positive results of integration showing up in their school system.

There are several lessons out of Hoke County for other school districts. Perhaps the greatest is that local leaders can save themselves and their communities much difficulty by doing "the right thing" on their own initiative rather than someone else's.

Also attending were Kenneth Edward Hollingsworth, James Lawrence McFadyen, Kenneth Alan Koonce, Donna Lynn Jackson, Beth Jordan, Missy Upchurch, Martin Best, Fonda Eileen Blue, Michael Niven Wood, Thomas Parsons Howell, Everette William McNeill, Rebecca Ann Howell, Kathy Diane Currie, Julia Anne Gibson, Katherine M. Keaton, Sharon Lynn Currie, Jerry Stephen Gibbs, Lynn Currie, Anna Jordan, Evelyn M. Brown, Kathy Davis, Susan Kennedy, Joanne Marie Hattel, Mark Gillis, Sallie Mae Johnson, Jimmy Womble, David Matherly, Kenny Davis, David Joseph Dombkowski, Linda Joyce Barfield, Mary Annette Blackburn, Kenneth Earl Hendrix, Barbara Ann Plummer, Ginger Davis, Lorraine Belinda Walters, and Sylvia Sellars.

Students from the Hoke High School chorus were among the 400 participants in the University of North Carolina's 18th annual Summer Choral Workshop for high school and college students and teachers.

The workshop is designed to provide participation and instruction in choral art and techniques of conducting and teaching. Dr. Lara Hoggard, UNC's William Rand Kenan professor of music, is the director.

The participants are highly select students representing high school and colleges from all over North Carolina. About 50 choral arts teachers working through the State Department of Public Instruction for renewal credit also attended.

Mrs. Mary Archie McNeill, music director of the Hoke chorus and chorale, attended the workshop.

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## Future In Farms For Southeast

"There is a growing future for agriculture in the Southeast in spite of the cost - price squeeze, high interest rates and mounting labor problems facing farmers," according to Edward C. Sumner, Manager of the Federal Land Bank Association of Lumberton, who has just returned from the annual conference for directors and managers of Federal Land Bank Associations held at the Marriott Motor Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia.

"As southeastern farms grow larger, there is an increasing demand for larger amounts of credit, as farmers are substituting capital for labor," Sumner explained. "However, our Associations have the people and tools to meet the increasing needs of farmers for credit on a sound, productive and constructive basis."

The Lumberton Association is one of the 46 farmer - owned Land Bank Associations which make and service long - term loans for the Federal Land Bank of Columbia, S.C. The Bank now has over 42,000 loans outstanding in the

amount of \$671 million with farmers, growers and ranchers in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas - the four states served by the Bank.

Other officials of the Lumberton Association attending the conference were D.G. Malloy of Lumber Bridge, President; Thomas M. McRimmon of Rowland, Vice President; Eugene M. Smith of Bladenboro, Director; Ralph M. Jolly of Tabor City, Director; Wilbur C. Ward of Clarkton, Director; and Carey V. Downing of Fayetteville, Director.

The Lumberton Association handles the making and servicing of loans for the Land Bank in Robeson, Columbus, Bladen, Cumberland, Hoke and Scotland counties out of the Association office in Lumberton and branch office in Whiteville.

The Battleship USS North Carolina's fuel tanks are now filled with water to steady her in her permanent berth at Wilmington, N.C.



**TOBACCO (BARN) ROAD** - The barn was being moved from the McGougan farm in the Sandy Grove section to the Joe Scott farm in the Gold Hill section when the foundation gave way on one side causing it to slide partly off the truck less than 100 yards from its destination. The mishap occurred Saturday morning.

## Farm Items

By  
W. S. Young & T. S. Baker,  
County Agricultural Agents

All swine are extremely sensitive to their surroundings and can be easily upset by temperature changes and improper ventilation. This is why you should pay particular attention to environmental factors as you strive to improve efficiency and profitability in your hog operation.

Baby pigs need warmth and need a temperature of 80 degrees to 95 degrees environment to ensure high survival rates. Over one million newborn pigs die from chilling each year. Warm concrete floors keep pigs warm with minimum bedding. While pigs like it hot, sows need to be kept cool. Best solution during farrowing time is to keep the farrowing house at cool temperatures for sows, while adding local heat for baby pigs.

Growing and finishing hogs suffer in hot weather and benefit from a modified environment. Feed efficiency is best 50 degrees to 75 degrees. Using Sprinklers added 0.3 pounds daily in Georgia and Purdue tests, also cooled concrete slabs increased gains 0.3 to 0.4 pounds.

While a profitable swine

confinement system requires sizable inputs, a University of Illinois study shows returns to farm overhead and management to be (1) on pasture \$1,103 (2) in solid floor confinement \$1,424 (3) in slotted floor confinement \$4,688.

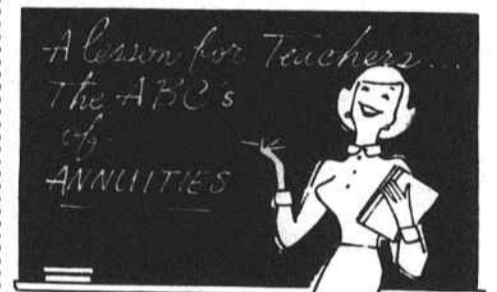
From these figures it shows that there is good returns by keeping the animals at the proper temperature.

Protect your family from the hazards of household chemicals. Ninety five percent of all cases of accidental poisoning by household chemicals involve children under five years of age.

Medicines, household preparations, insect and disease spray, kerosene, lighter fluids, some furniture polish, turpentine, paint solvents and products containing lye and acids are most frequently the cause of accidental poisonings.

Safe use, safe storage and safe disposal of old containers can eliminate all these problems. In case anything happens, a physician should be called immediately. The container with the poison should be brought along, including the label and this will help to know what antidote to give the patient.

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Metropolitan Life



## Hoke County Under The Metric System

(Special to The News Journal)

NEW YORK, June 20 - If the United States should switch to the metric system of weights and measures - using meters, liters and kilograms instead of yards, quarts and pounds - what would be some of the changes in Hoke County?

The question is not just an academic one. Congress has authorized the Commerce Department to conduct a three-year study on the advisability of converting.

Over 90 percent of the world population now utilizes the metric system. The United States is the only large country

that does not.

As a result, it is contended, our international trade is at a distinct disadvantage.

The switchover would require many adjustments on the part of Hoke County residents. The local automobile driver would pull into a gas station and ask for 25 liters. That would be equivalent to 6.6 gallons.

It would be good for 150 kilometers because he gets about 6 kilometers to the liter, otherwise known as 14 miles to the gallon.

During the course of a year, he and the other 3,930 local car owners consume 2,720 liters, on average.

Leaving the gas station he would pass a road sign reading 80 km. maximum, meaning that he may not drive faster than 48 miles per hour, old style.

If he were to cover every part of the local area he would encompass some 844 square kilometers, since the land area is approximately 326 square miles, current scale.

His daughter, at the doctor's office, has her measurements checked. She weighs 57 kilograms (formerly 126 pounds) and is 1.68 meters tall (5 feet 6 inches).

If she is like Miss America, her other measurements, in centimeters, are 93-58-91.

The Hoke County housewife, when she goes to the market for supplies, would be buying 500 grams of butter, a kilo of meat for hamburgers (2.2 pounds) and 4 meters (3.6 yards) of material for a dress.

Those in favor of the change to the metric system argue that we cannot stand alone indefinitely in a world that has almost entirely gone metric.

Opposing the changeover are those who point to the billions of dollars that it would cost industry to adjust to the metric system.

## Library Draws Fewer Readers

Although one young reader has already zipped through the list of 20 required books in the first two weeks of the library's summer reading program, the program is off to a slow start with fewer readers this year.

Beth Cameron is the first reader to complete the reading list and has been awarded a pin by the library staff.

A total of 61 children from the first to fifth grades have registered this summer and 37 have begun the reading list.

The first library hour, held last Thursday, drew only 34 children, Mrs. Lee Cameron, librarian, said. Stories and films are presented each Thursday at the library from 10 to 11 a.m.

"We are hoping the attendance will be better this week since swimming lessons are over now," Mrs. Cameron said.

More than 2,000 men formed the crew of the Battleship USS North Carolina during her active duty days in World War II.

**HOLIDAY NOTICE**

**WE WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS**  
the regular hours  
**SATURDAY, JULY 4th**

**WE WILL BE CLOSED**  
**MONDAY, JULY 6th**

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